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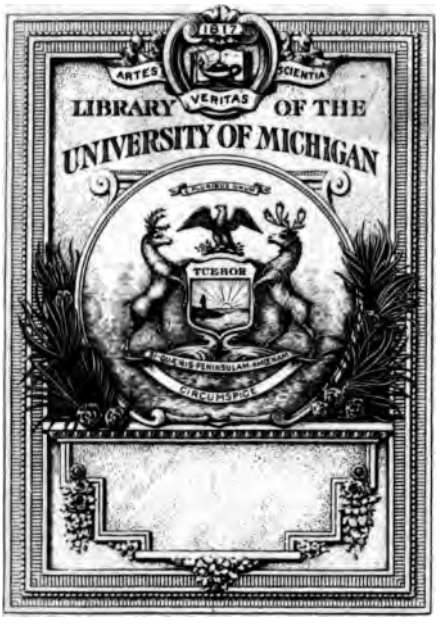
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ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

IN

HODGSON HALL,

ON THE 14th OF FEBRUARY, 1881.

BY

CHARLES C. JONES, JR., L. L. D.

"Deposited upon the silent shore
Of Memory, images and precious thoughts
That shall not die, and cannot be destroyed."

PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY.
1881.

J. H. ESTILL, PRINTER,
SAVANNAH, GA.

GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

Savannah, March 9th, 1881.

COL. CHARLES C. JONES, JR.,

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA.

Dear Sir—I take great pleasure in informing you that at the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Georgia Historical Society, held last Monday evening, the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"Resolved that our thanks are due and are hereby cordially tendered to Col. Charles C. Jones, Jr., for his very able and eloquent address,—eminently discriminating and truly historical,—delivered before the Georgia Historical Society at its Anniversary on February 14th, 1881.

Resolved that Col Jones be requested to furnish a copy of this address for publication by the Society, and that we will preserve with pride and satisfaction this well merited tribute to the valuable labors and exalted character of our founders and predecessors."

I remain very respectfully yours,

W. GRAYSON MANN,

Cor. Sec. Geo. Hist. Society.

ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS.

Mr. President, Ladies, and Gentlemen:

As children of the past and parents of the future, it appears eminently proper that we should, at stated intervals, pause for a brief hour in the hurrying march of time which will soon bear us hence, that we may call to remembrance our peculiar inheritance, carefully estimate our present belongings, and form at least a proximate conception of what our legacies will be.

In responding to the invitation which brings me into your gracious presence this evening, it has occurred to me that I cannot better fulfill the expectations of this Anniversary occasion than by reminding you of those who were the founders, patrons, and special friends of this Society, and by reviewing what has already been accomplished by our Institution in the exercise of its legitimate functions. Thus will we the more surely comprehend the position we now occupy, understand the meed to which we are entitled, and gather fresh courage for the discharge of the duties which lie before us.

Forty-two years have elapsed since the organization, in our midst, of the Georgia Historical Society. Have you forgotten the officers selected to give nascent tone, character, and impulse to the Institution? Let me name them.

JOHN MCPHERSON BERRIEN,—President,—born before the independence of these United States had been acknowledged,—a graduate of Princeton College when only a lad of fifteen,—then a pupil of the honorable Joseph Clay,—

called to the Bar while still a minor,—at an early age Solicitor of the Eastern Circuit,—when not thirty years old Judge of the Superior Courts of the Eastern District,—a Major of Cavalry in the war of 1812–15,—State Senator in 1822,—occupying a seat in the Senate of the United States in 1825,—four years afterwards Attorney General of the United States,—again a Senator from Georgia in 1841 and 1847,—filling other prominent positions within the gift of his fellow-citizens proud of his culture, probity, attainments, and ability,—the most accomplished lawyer Georgia ever gave to a court-room State or Federal,—thoroughly versed in the "nice, sharp quillets of the law," yet demonstrating at all times, by act and argument, that law was indeed, as my Lord Coke would have it, "the perfection of reason,"—acquainted with the traditions of his people local and national,—a type of the exact scholar and thorough gentleman;

James Moore Wayne,—Vice President,—another son of Nassau Hall,—a favorite pupil of John Y. Noel, Judge Chauncey, and of Richard M. Stites,—in turn Judge of the Superior Courts of the Eastern District, member of Congress, and an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States,—a model of manly beauty, and a Chesterfield in deportment;

Matthew Hall McAllister,—Vice President,—a genial companion,—a famous advocate,—and, toward the evening of his life, elevated to the Bench as Federal Judge for the District of California;

Israel K. Tefft,—Corresponding Secretary,—an ardent devotee of the past,—a famous collector of autograph-letters and historical documents, especially of such as illustrated our Revolutionary period,—looking upon the time-stained paper whereon some famous hand had writ

"With greater love than the self-lov'd Narcissus
Did on his beauty,"—

the *fons et origo* of the Society;

GEORGE W. HUNTER,—Treasurer,—managing with care the slender finances of the Institution;

HENRY K. PRESTON,—Librarian,—acquainted with books and of scholarly tastes;

WILLIAM THORNE WILLIAMS, always active in measures which had for their object the promotion of education and the amelioration of the intellectual status of the community,—a Captain of the Chatham Artillery in the war of 1812,—and, during a long life, a lover and publisher of books;

CHARLES S. HENRY,—lawyer, Judge, and urbane gentleman;

JOHN C. NICOLL, of Roman virtue, exact habit, and most retentive memory,—careful in noting the passing event,—a walking encyclopædia,—full of calm thought,—much given to patient investigation, and executing his office of District Judge with a firmness, ability, and erudition worthy of all commendation;

WILLIAM LAW,—than whom no more courteous gentleman, eloquent advocate, profound jurist, and fair-minded Judge ever adorned Society and maintained the standard of true excellency in this beautiful City of Oglethorpe;

ROBERT M. CHARLTON,—counsellor, advocate, Judge, poet, essayist, friend,—the mention of whose name revivifies the electric chain which binds us to all that is pure in life, sweet in companionship, and undefiled in thought and act;

ALEXANDER A. SMETS,—successful merchant, citizen of public spirit, and bibliophile of unusual knowledge,—in constant communion with books, and surrounding him-

self with much that was choice and rare in the world of letters;

WILLIAM BACON STEVENS,—energetic and earnest,—eager to familiarize himself with the men and events reflecting distinction upon his adopted State,—a professor of belles lettres and history in the University of Georgia,—and, at a later period, Episcopal Bishop of Pennsylvania;

and last, but not least, RICHARD D. ARNOLD, whose name and fame and loves are intimately associated with the annals of this City and Society,—the skillful physician,—the generous friend,—given to profuse and refined hospitality,—the honored Mayor and trusted legislator,—foremost in every good work which could enure to the material benefit and civilization of Savannah,—the life and soul of every public convocation,—a Luttrell among wits,—a ministering angel when the shadows of want and pestilence darkened these streets,—of excellent literary taste,—and possessing a memory as tenacious of incidents, characters, and letters, as though they had been graven with a diamond's point upon a tablet of agate:—these were they who, in 1839, were selected as the first officers of the Georgia Historical Society. Surely, from out the entire circuit of this community none more competent or trustworthy could have been chosen.

Fifty years have not yet elapsed and, with a single exception, all are numbered with the dead. So like to a short summer is human life.

Of the original Resident Members of the Society one may not enumerate more than fourteen now in being, and most of them are rapidly hastening onward to that extreme verge beyond which it is not permitted the children of men to linger.

Such is the sad side of the retrospect which the recurrence of this Anniversary suggests. And yet, apart from the sorrow which the demise of the good, the useful, and the loved always causes, there is nothing unusual in the fact that upon the flight of these two score years and more we should be forcibly reminded of the operation of that inexorable law

> "All that lives must die,
> Passing through nature to eternity."

Although these founders of our Society have been gathered to their fathers, the temple which they planned survives, and subsequent years have strengthened its walls and enriched its porches. The purpose they conceived found encouragement at the hands of those who came after them. The charities of the benevolent and the intellectual gravitated hitherward, and thus has it come to pass that within the fair borders of this charming City there exists no more attractive edifice, no retreat more seductive, no more cultured resort than HODGSON HALL. Long may this institution remain the pride of Savannah and the honor of Georgia.

At the date of the inception of the Georgia Historical Society,—aside from tracts encouraging the foundation of the Colony and furnishing accounts of its development under the guidance of the Trustees and during the early years of its existence,—but two histories of Georgia had been published.

There appeared in London, in 1779, anonymously, but, as we now know, from the pen of the Reverend Alexander Hewatt,—a Presbyterian Clergyman and a former resident of Charleston,—who had departed thence when he perceived that an open rupture between the Crown and

the Thirteen Colonies in North America was imminent,—two octavo volumes entitled "*An Historical Account of the Rise and Progress of the Colonies of South Carolina and Georgia.*" While in this work the Colonial history of Georgia is narrated at some length, the attention of the author was chiefly occupied with a recital of events connected with the establishment and growth of the Colony of South Carolina. His labors ended with the dawn of the Revolution: and this history,—then long out of print,—was inaccessible to the general reader.

Soon after the formation of the General Government Mr. Edward Langworthy,—at first a pupil and then a teacher at Whitefield's Orphan House, afterwards an enthusiastic "Liberty Boy," Secretary of the Provincial Congress of Georgia, and one of the early representatives from Georgia in the Congress of the Confederated States,—formed the design of writing a history of this State. Of fair attainments, and personally acquainted with the leading men and transactions of the period, he was well qualified for the task, and addressed himself with energy to the collection of materials requisite for the undertaking. It would appear, from a published prospectus of the work printed in the *Georgia Gazette*, that this history was actually written. Suitable encouragement however, not having been encountered, the contemplated publication was never made. Mr. Langworthy died at Elkton, in Maryland, early in the present century, and all efforts to recover both his manuscript and the supporting documents which he had amassed have thus far proved utterly abortive.

From the press of Seymour and Williams of Savannah was issued, in 1811, the first volume of Major Hugh McCall's "*History of Georgia;*" and this was followed,

in 1816, by the second volume, published by William Thorne Williams. Oppressed by physical infirmities, and a martyr to the effects of the exposures and dangers experienced as an officer in the army of the Revolution,—now confined to his couch,—again, a helpless cripple, locomoting in an easy chair upon wheels,—dependent for a livelihood upon the salary paid him as City Jailor,—often wholly interrupted in his labors,—and then, during intervals of pain, writing with his portfolio resting upon his knees,—without the preliminary education requisite for the scholarly accomplishment of such a serious undertaking, and yet fired with patriotic zeal and anxious to wrest from impending oblivion the fading traditions of the State he loved so well and whose independence he had imperiled everything to secure,—Major McCall, in the end, compassed a narrative which we all prize and which, in its recital of events connected with our Revolutionary period and the part borne by Georgians in that memorable struggle, is invaluable. There hangs his portrait. This hall is dignified by its presence. We salute it with honor and gratitude: and, speaking for the living in the face of the dead, we applaud alike his services in the cause of freedom and his labors with his pen when his sword had been sheathed in victory. Whatever may hereafter be achieved by the historians of Georgia during the long and, we trust, prosperous years which are in store for our grand old Commonwealth, to him must they all come at last for the fullest accounts of the perils and the privations, the affairs and the incidents of our primal Revolution.

Appreciating the propriety, nay, the necessity of collecting, arranging and publishing all papers relating to the settlement and political history of this State, the

Legislature, in 1824, designated Mr. Joseph V. Bevan as a suitable person to perform this important task, and made an appropriation in partial defrayal of the expenses incident to the undertaking. It was understood, at the time, that Mr. Bevan was in possession of some interesting reports, documents, communications, and other manuscripts which were to be utilized in that behalf. His early death terminated the enterprise, and no one is advised of the fate which overtook his collections. They have seemingly been lost beyond recovery.

In December, 1837, the General Assembly of Georgia empowered the Governor to select a competent party whose duty it should be, in behalf of the State, to repair to London and there procure, from the Government offices, copies of all records appertaining to the settlement and Colonial life of Georgia. The Reverend Charles Wallace Howard was entrusted with the execution of this mission. He returned with copies of letters and documents filling twenty-two folio volumes. Fifteen were taken from the originals on file in the Office of the Board of Trade: six from those in the custody of the State-Paper Office, and the remaining one from documents forming a part of the King's Library. The material thus secured has been but partially utilized, and will prove of value to the future historian.

Such was the progress made in the preparation of a general history of Georgia, such the effort to collect original matter, and such were the failures which had occurred at the time when it entered into the minds of leading citizens in Savannah to organize this Society. Its avowed object was the collection, preservation, and diffusion of information relating to the history of Georgia in all its various departments. To that end its officers

and members, with a zeal worthy of all commendation, by correspondence, circular, contribution, purchase and petition concentrated as rapidly as they could in the library of the Institution all printed and manuscript matter within the range of present possibility.

Rightly discerning that it was their immediate mission to garner up the materials and entrust to the future historian their proper arrangement and utilization, the founders of this Society, at the outset, disclaimed all design of writing a history of the State. So earnest was the Society in the prosecution of its mission, and so eager to offer palpable evidence of its vitality, and to assert a right to honorable companionship in the sisterhood of kindred institutions, that in the second year of its existence it printed its first volume of Collections. A valuable and interesting publication it is, containing Judge Law's masterly oration upon the celebration of its first anniversary,—reprints of Oglethorpe's "*New and accurate Account of the Provinces of South Carolina and Georgia,*"—Francis Moore's "*Voyage to Georgia, begun in the year* 1735."—Benjamin Martyn's "*Impartial Inquiry into the State and Utility of the Province of Georgia,*"—and his "*Reasons for establishing the Colony of Georgia with regard to the Trade of Great Britain,*" *&c.*,—and the honorable Thomas Spalding's "*Sketch of the Life of General James Oglethorpe.*"

It is not an exaggeration to affirm that this first contribution of our cherished Society will compare favorably with the transactions of any kindred society within the wide borders of this land. And the second,—given to the public two years afterwards,—was like unto it in historical value and genuine interest. Listen to its contents:— A discourse, by Dr. William Bacon Stevens, on early events connected with the Revolution in Georgia,—and reprints of

"*A New Voyage to Georgia,*" &c.—"*A Curious Account of the Indians, by an honorable person,*"—"*Poems to the honorable James Oglethorpe,*"—"*A State of the Province of Georgia attested upon oath in the Court of Savannah, November 10th,* 1740,"—"*A Brief Account of the Causes that have retarded the Progress of the Colony of Georgia in America, &c.,*—"*A True and Historical Narrative of the Colony of Georgia in America, &c., by Pat Tailfer, M. D., Hugh Anderson, M. A., Da Douglas, and others,*"—and "*An Account showing the Progress of the Colony of Georgia in America from its First Establishment.*"

In 1848 appeared Part First of the third volume of the Collections of this Society. The resources of the Institution having been anticipated by the erection of a Library and Historical Hall, the superintendence and charge of this publication were generously undertaken and borne by an accomplished gentleman and finished scholar whose friendship for our Association was always conspicuous, and whose culture and reputation exerted a reflex influence most honorable and propitious. There is his speaking image, and we stand in the beautiful Hall consecrated by loving hearts to his memory. Five years agone, upon the dedication of this tasteful edifice—so commodious, and so appropriate in all its appointments—and upon the unveiling of this admirable portrait, there fell from the lips of our distinguished President* a eulogium most fit upon the life and literary labors of the honorable WILLIAM B. HODGSON. It was a tribute which only genius and poetry and eloquence could render to the erudite scholar and the man of letters who revelled in the picturesque learning of the Orient.

*Hon. Henry R. Jackson.

The volume to which we allude is a publication of the original manuscript of Colonel Benjamin Hawkins, entitled "*A Sketch of the Creek Country in* 1798 *and* 1799." Conveying a correct impression of the manners, characteristics, customs, and settlements of the famous Muscogulgee Confederacy, and portraying with remarkable fidelity the physical peculiarities of the territory then occupied by the Creek Indians, its value cannot well be overestimated. The observations of this *Beloved Man of the Four Nations,*—as Colonel Hawkins is appropriately styled by Mr. Gallatin—are reckoned of the highest authority. They are so regarded by all who have of late investigated the subjects of which he treats.

As early as March, 1841, the Society invited Dr. William Bacon Stevens to undertake, under its auspices, the preparation of a new and complete history of Georgia. Liberal aid was extended to him in the prosecution of this important labor which eventuated in the publication of two octavo volumes,—one in 1847 and the other in 1859. The author concludes his history with the adoption of the Constitution of 1798. It is perhaps not ungracious to add that this work, partial in its scope, did not gratify public expectation. It has encountered severe criticism, and does not appear to have commended itself to general favor.

For nearly eight years after its organization our Association possessed no building of its own; but, through the courtesy of the Savannah Library Society, was permitted to occupy its rooms as a place of convocation. In 1847 there occurred a practical consolidation of these institutions, and two years subsequently the Georgia Historical Society found a convenient abiding place in the edifice which had been erected for its accommodation on Bryan

Street, opposite the Bank of the State of Georgia. The library of the Savannah Library Society was merged into that of the Georgia Historical Society, and thus were the literary attractions of our Association enhanced by the addition of some twenty-five hundred volumes.

Through the generosity of one of Savannah's distiguished sons,—Dr. James P. Screven,—a liability incurred in the erection of our hall was, in 1852, discharged, and the Society liberated from debt. Pleasant, but without special mark, were the regular meetings and social gatherings of the Society in this edifice. Our library slowly increased and our Association maintained its integrity; but, for nearly ten years, it gave no valuable token of vitality.

Then came the exciting days of the Confederate Revolution when the entire manhood of our beleaguered land was in arms in defense of home and country and right,—when the thoughts and capabilities of our people were enlisted in a gigantic struggle for independence,—when an enveloping blockade shut out from us the current literature of the world and suspended communication with sister institutions,—when our local presses were mainly employed in multiplying military orders, in printing works upon the art of war, and in responding to the needs of our isolated Confederacy bravely asserting her claim to a recognition in the sisterhood of nations. It was emphatically a period of the sternest trial, of action the most heroic, of incidents all absorbing, and of perils beyond enumeration. No wonder then, when the thunders of aggressive and relentless war were heard everywhere within our borders and our whole people were wrestling so bravely for the retention of the land they loved, that our Society did little more than preserve its organization, abiding the return of that day when,—the

graver and holier duties of the patriot discharged,—the survivors of the Revolution might return to the peaceful paths of literature and unite in the conservation of the memories of the past.

The war did end, but it left us a region filled with mourning. Sorrow, penury, disappointment and ashes were the common heritage, and in the general gloom which encompassed all there shone scarce a single star of substantial promise.

In this dark hour when the sufferings of the present were sadly commingled with the uncertainties of the future,—when amid the wreck of fortunes, established institutions, and government itself, there appeared little room for aught else save a struggle for daily bread,—when the will of the conqueror was the supreme law, and on every hand the lamentation of "Rachel, weeping for her children" and refusing to be comforted because they were not, was blended with the voices of despair and the sounds of apprehension,—when amid the disquietudes of the moment the obligations of former times were disregarded,—when light and hope and literature were still discolored by the overmastering glare of disastrous war,—when the hearts of men, turned aside from intellectual effort and the pursuits of literature, were busied with the exactions of practical life,—when our Society of necessity languished,—were heard in our midst the inspiring tones of one, our newly elected President,—the RIGHT REVEREND STEPHEN ELLIOTT, D. D., of blessed memory,—pleading for a revival of the literary spirit in our community, extolling the advantages of a public library of choice selection and liberal proportions, encouraging our members to renewed efforts in behalf of the Society, and bespeaking for it the countenance and

coöperation of the wise, the intelligent, and the good. The address which he delivered, in February 1866, hopeful in spirit, wise in counsel, and far-reaching in design, was most potent and beneficial in its effect. Under his guidance, and inspired by his example, our Society awoke from the depression engendered by universal disaster. A fresh impetus was given to its deliberations, its membership, its exertions, which the succeeding years have not failed to appreciate. Precious indeed is the memory which abides with us of this Godly man and of the influence he exerted in our behalf and in favor of all that was true, beautiful, and ennobling.

"He was a scholar and a ripe and a good one;
Exceeding wise, fair-spoken, and persuading:
* * * *
* to those men that sought him, sweet as summer."

Reverently do we turn to that speaking canvas which reflects the commanding image of him who was to us an exponent of the highest type of Southern civilization,—the paragon of all that was courtly in mien, cultured in thought and act, attractive in intellect, generous in impulse, eloquent in utterance, sympathetic in emotion, exalted in example, pure in conduct, elevating in companionship, and holy in office. Gratefully do we recall his manly virtues and recollect his saintly ministrations. To him are we indebted for labors abundant and influential in the cause of truth, education, and intellectual progress at an epoch of unusual stagnation in social and literary life.

During the ensuing six years our Society evinced marked signs of substantial advancement in usefulness and influence. Its library was steadily and judiciously augmented, and a change of location for the convenience of readers

and the more suitable accommodation of its volumes was, in the Spring of 1871, made to Armory Hall.

The same year, during the presidency of the HONORABLE EDWARD J. HARDEN, whose love for his native Georgia, familiarity with her annals, and affection for this Institution, are so well remembered by us all, the Society gave to the public another proof of its vitality in an interesting and handsomely printed *brochure* entitled "*An Authentic Account of the Origin, Mystery and Explanation of Hon. Richard Henry Wilde's alleged plagiarism of The Lament of the Captive.*" The preparation of this attractive little volume chiefly devolved upon the late Anthony Barclay, Esqr., whose scholarly attainments amply fitted him for the perpetration of the literary pleasantry which, for a season, caused no little mystification and even induced the gifted author of "My life is like the Summer Rose" to publicly deny the suggested pillage from Alcæus. By this contribution the Society has linked its name with one of the sweetest poems ever uttered by mortal lips.

In this hurried review we would prove recreant to the memories of the past did we omit a becoming allusion to the amiable character, the literary attainments, and the valuable influence of the Honorable EDWARD JENKINS HARDEN, one of our most devoted and accomplished Presidents. To him are we beholden for services the most intelligent and efforts the most untiring. It was ever his pleasure to foster all schemes which ameliorated the condition and promoted the honor and the usefulness of our Institution. Of scholarly tastes and liberal education,— always intent upon the cultivation of letters and the encouragement of intellectual effort,—a careful student of Georgia history, and noted for his accurate acquaintance with the lives of persons

and the philosophy of events remarkable in the chronicles of this Commonwealth,—of genial temper, social habit, and uncompromising integrity,—an upright and just Judge,—a counselor wise, prudent, and reliable,—an earnest and capable advocate,—as a companion, abounding in friendship, fidelity, and urbanity,—and, as an office-bearer in the Church of Christ, faithful and consistent,—the savor of his good name abides as a pleasant heritage with us. In the language of another: "His private life was universally acknowledged to have been pure and virtuous. Few men die who can carry, as we believe he did, to the tribunal of the Almighty the record of a heart so free from guile, and of a conscience so void of offense toward God and toward man." Of his literary footprints the most abiding is his *Life of Governor George M. Troup.* Already has this Society, by an *In Memoriam* Tract printed shortly after his death, given public expression to the general appreciation of the great loss sustained in the demise of this our friend and President.

Having, in 1871, through the generous and personal intervention of Mr. George Wymberley-Jones DeRenne, of Savannah, become possessed of accurate copies, from the British Colonial Office, of the letters of General Oglethorpe to the Trustees of the Colony of Georgia, commencing on the 29th of October, 1735, and ending with the 24th of August, 1744, and also of the letters of Sir James Wright,—the third and last Royal Governor of the Province,—addressed to the Earl of Dartmouth and Lord George Germain,—Secretaries of State,—and to other prominent parties in England, in which he narrates with great minuteness and fidelity from the stand-point of a loyal servant of his Majesty King George III. the local events

which transpired during our Revolutionary period, the Georgia Historical Society gave publicity to them in the third volume of its Collections. That volume also contains a Report on the condition of the Province of Georgia made by Governor Wright, in 1772, in reply to specific inquiries propounded by the Earl of Dartmouth,—kindly furnished by Mr. DeRenne,—an Anniversary Address, by the Speaker, upon the life and services of Count Pulaski, and a historical address by Dr. Richard D. Arnold. Of the value of this contribution I need only say that it would be impossible to specify documents of higher import, illustrative of the early life and conduct of the Colony, than those spread upon its pages.

And here, my friends, permit me to pause in this narrative to place a memorial wreath upon the new-made grave of one who, since our last annual meeting, has left our companionship and fallen on sleep. He was at one time our President, and always the firm friend and generous patron of this Society. His interest in the genuine welfare of this Institution will probably never be comprehended in all its scope and various manifestations,—an interest which induced him to institute exhaustive research among, and acquire privileged access to, the Public Records in London that they might give up their hidden treasures in illustration of the history of Georgia and in furtherance of the reputation of our Association,—an interest which led to munificent gifts in multiplying the collections and publications of this Society,—an intelligent interest which assisted in shaping its conduct and administration,—an interest most prevailing, which, if I mistake not, had much to do with rounding into absolute symmetry and giving happy expression to the magnificent charities of those noble Sisters to whose liberality we are indebted

for this spacious building and for that other foundation which, in due season, will develop into an ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES the like of which has never existed within the limits of this State. Grievous indeed has been our loss, and sincerely do we lament the demise of such a friend, counselor, and patron.

Although born in the City of Philadelphia on the 19th of July, 1827, Mr. GEORGE WYMBERLEY-JONES DERENNE was, in every thought and emotion, a Georgian most loyal. In the paternal line he was the direct descendant of Captain Noble Jones,—the trusted lieutenant of Oglethorpe,—whose watchful eye and brave sword were ever instant for the protection of the infant colony against the encroachments of the jealous Spaniards and the incursions of the restless Indians. Our early records are rendered illustrious by the valor, circumspection, and cool daring which he exhibited on various occasions of doubt and danger.

Among the patriot names shedding lustre upon the period when our people were engaged in the effort to rid themselves of Kingly rule, none in Georgia was more conspicuous for purity of purpose, wisdom of counsel, and fearlessness in action than that of the honorable Noble Wymberley Jones, the grand-father of Mr. DeRenne. Speaker of the Provincial Legislature at a time when it was no light matter to incur the displeasure of a Royal Governor, arrested and confined because of his sympathy with the Revolutionists, and, upon the termination of the war, selected a Representative from Georgia in the Continental Congress, as physician, legislator, patriot, citizen, he won the confidence and esteem of all. Early in the present century he found rest in the bosom of the beautiful home where he had been so honored, admired and trusted.

Of Dr. George Jones,—the father of our friend,—I may not speak, for there are those within the compass of my voice who knew him in life and cherish his virtues now that he is gone.

Thus does it appear that Mr. DeRenne was the legitimate inheritor, in the fourth generation, of illustrious traditions and of memories personal and precious connected with the history and honor of Georgia. With him they were family legacies. He accepted them as such, and the allegiance which bound him to home and State was inseparable from the ties which united him to kindred and lineage. They were indissolubly interwoven, and whenever the name of Georgia was uttered, there came heart throbs of loyalty and pride most peculiar and pleasurable.

The first eleven years of his life,—that tender period when impressions the most abiding are formed,—when loves are cemented which the vicissitudes of subsequent age cannot impair,—that morning of existence whose sunlight fades not from memory,—were passed at Wormsloe on the Isle of Hope, the abode of his ancestors. There in infancy were his loves of Georgia begotten. There was his knowledge of home and country localized. There were attachments born which remained ever part and parcel of his inner being.

When not yet twelve years old, upon the death of his father, he accompanied his mother to Philadelphia. There he pursued his academic studies and was, in due course, admitted as a member of the Collegiate Department of the University of Pennsylvania. His proficiency in the acquisition of knowledge, and his intellectual capabilities attracted the notice and evoked the commendation of his teachers. It was natural that he should

seek an education in that city and from that institution, for both were allied to him by ties of no ordinary significance. His maternal grand-father,—Justice Thomas Smith,—had been for many years a prominent lawyer and a distinguished Judge in Philadelphia, and his maternal great uncle,—the Reverend William Smith, D. D.,—was the first provost of the institution now known as the University of Pennsylvania. He was a noted teacher, an accomplished writer, and an eloquent divine. A native of Scotland and a graduate of the University of Aberdeen, shortly after his removal to America he identified himself with all that was progressive and of high repute in the City of Brotherly Love. After a long life spent in rendering important service to the literary, educational, and religious interests of this country, he died in the city of his adoption on the 14th of May, 1803. His scholarly works and the institution he founded are living monuments to his memory.

In his maternal home, and upon the benches whence had gone forth many who had been instructed by his distinguished relative, Mr. DeRenne found opportunity for earnest study. Graduating with honor, and selecting medicine as the profession best suited to his tastes, he became a private pupil of the famous Dr. Samuel Jackson and entered the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania. This College was, at that time, probably the most noted in the United States, and the facilities there afforded for mastering the mysteries of the Healing Art were unsurpassed this side the Atlantic. Mr. De Renne's graduating thesis was entitled a "*Theory concerning the Nature of Insanity.*" It was, in 1847, privately printed, to the number of forty-eight copies, for special distribution. Striking in thought and composition is this

production, indicating an amount of careful research, delicate analysis, and philosophical deduction quite uncommon in one who had barely attained unto his majority. It elicited the praise of his preceptors who earnestly hoped that his talents and acquirements would be consecrated to the practice of a calling which sweeps in its high scope the whole range of physical and moral science. But with Mr. DeRenne there was no intention of applying himself to the active pursuit of the profession to the privileges of which he had just been admitted as a Doctor of Medicine. His affections turned to his island home beneath the Georgia magnolias, and his thoughts were of a quiet, independent life devoted to the exhibition of hospitality, the pursuit of literature, and the enjoyment of dignified repose.

Shortly after graduation he repaired to Wormsloe and there fixed his residence. With all its wealth of magnificent live-oaks, palmettoes, pines, cedars, and magnolias, with its quiet, gentle views, balmy airs, soft sunlight, swelling tides, inviting prospects, and cherished traditions, this attractive spot had uninterruptedly continued to be the home of his ancestors from the date of its original cession from the Crown to his great-grand-father Captain Noble Jones. Here were the remains of the tabby fortification which he had constructed for the protection of his plantation,—then an outpost to the town of Savannah,—and there, vine-covered and overshadowed by oaks and cedars, they will endure for unnumbered years, constituting one of the most unique and interesting historical ruins on the Georgia coast. During his residence at this charming abode, which continued, with occasional absences, until the late war between the States, Mr. De Renne guarded this ancestral domain with the tender

care and devotion of a loyal son, adding to the recollections of the past literary and cultivated associations in the present which imparted new delights to the name of Wormsloe.

In this youthful country so careless of and indifferent to the memories of former days, so ignorant of the value of monuments and the impressive lessons of antiquity,—where no law of primogeniture encourages in the son the conservation of the abode and the heirlooms of his father,—where new fields, cheap lands, and novel enterprises at remote points are luring the loves of succeeding generations from the gardens which delighted, the hoary oaks which sheltered, and the fertile fields which nourished their ancestors,—where paternal estates,—exposed at public and private sale,—are placed at the mercy of speculative strangers,—where ancestral graves too often lie neglected, and residences, once noted for refinement, intelligence, virtue, and hospitality, lose their identity in the ownership of aliens,—it was a beautiful sight—this preservation of the old home-stead, this filial devotion to tree and ruin and tradition, this maintenance around the ancient hearth-stone of cultured memories and inherited civilization. Love of home and kindred and State lay at the root of it all, and this sentiment, than which none more potent resides in the human breast, none more efficient for the honorable perpetuation of family and nation, found fullest lodgment in the heart of our friend.

His carefully selected library contained works of high repute, and of great rarity in certain departments. His reading was varied and accurate. Communing often with his favorite authors, he maintained an active acquaintance with the ever expanding domain of scientific and

philosophical inquiry. His liberal education, enriched by study, travel, and observation, enabled him to appreciate and cultivate those standards in literature and art which give birth to the accurate scholar and the capable critic.

To familiarize himself with the history of Georgia and rescue her traditions from forgetfulness were ever his pleasure and pride. During his sojourns in London he obtained favored access to the records in the various public offices and to the treasures of the British Museum. Thence did he procure copies of all papers throwing light upon the early life of the Colony. We have no hesitation in expressing the opinion that in a thorough acquaintance with the history of Savannah, and of Georgia,—both as a Colony and a State,—he was excelled by none. Often have we hoped that he would have undertaken a general history of our State; and more than once did we commend the suggestion to his favorable consideration. Such a work, from his capable pen, composed in that spirit of truth and characterized by that patient research and philosophical analysis of men and events which distinguished all his investigations, would have proved a standard authority. Unfortunately however, he has been called hence in the vigor of his matured manhood, and in this anticipation we may no longer indulge.

During his residence on the Isle of Hope the literary tastes of Mr. DeRenne found expression in the following publications,—with one exception bearing the imprint of Wormsloe,—and executed in the highest style of the printer's art.

In 1847 he reprinted the rare and valuable political tract by George Walton, William Few, and Richard Howley, entitled "*Observations upon the effects of certain late political suggestions, by the Delegates of Georgia.*"

Two years afterward appeared his caustic "*Observations on Dr. Stevens' History of Georgia.*"

In 1849 was issued the second of the Wormsloe Quartos, entitled "*History of the Province of Georgia, with Maps of Original Surveys; by John Gerar William DeBrahm, His Majesty's Surveyor General for the Southern District of North America.*" This was a most valuable publication. DeBrahm's manuscript, from which the portion relating to Georgia was thus printed, exists in the Library of Harvard University, at Cambridge, Massachusetts. Mr. DeRenne did for Georgia what Mr. Weston had accomplished for South Carolina.

The following year, in the third of the Wormsloe Quartos, were presented the interesting "*Journal and Letters of Eliza Lucas,*"—the mother of Generals Charles Cotesworth and Thomas Pinckney.

So charmed was Mr. DeRenne with "*A Bachelor's Reverie, in three parts: I. Smoke, signifying Doubt; II. Blaze, signifying Cheer; III. Ashes, signifying Desolation: by Ik. Marvel,*" that in 1850, by permission of and as a compliment to the gentle Author, he had a beautiful edition of twelve copies privately printed.

In 1851 Mr. DeRenne published, as his fourth Wormsloe Quarto, the *Diary of Colonel Winthrop Sargent, Adjutant General of the United States Army during the Campaign of* 1791. Only such portion of the Diary was printed as related to St. Clair's expedition.

Of these Quartos but a very limited edition was printed, and the copies were donated to famous libraries and placed in the hands of favored friends. Of the first quarto there are only twenty-one copies; of the second, forty-nine; of the third, nineteen; and of the fourth, forty-six. They are all admirable specimens of typogra-

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phy and literary taste; and, in addition to the historical value they possess, are highly esteemed because of their rarity.

Soon after the inception of the late War Mr. DeRenne transferred his residence from Wormsloe to the City of Savannah. The desolations consequent upon the failure of the Confederate Cause pressed sorely upon the coast region of our State, sadly altering the conveniences of life, changing the whole theory of our patriarchal civilization, and begetting isolation and solitude where formerly existed inviting mansions,—the centres of sympathies and social life which, in their essential characteristics, can, I fear me, never be revived.

His residence in Savannah,—the abode of the choicest hospitality, within whose walls dwelt comfort, refinement, and elegance most attractive,—could never in his affections supplant the loves he cherished for the old homestead on the Isle of Hope. During the Winter and Spring, one day in each week did he dedicate to the sweet influences of Wormsloe where,—secluded from the turmoil of busy life,—he surrendered himself to the contemplation of scenes and the revivification of memories upon which time had placed its seal of consecration.

In further illustration of the liberality of our deceased friend toward this Society, it should be mentioned that he bore the entire charge of the publication of the fourth volume of its Collections.

That volume, printed in 1878, embraces a *History of the Dead Towns of Georgia*:—villages and plantations once vital and influential within our borders, but now covered with the mantle of decay, without succession, and silent amid the voices of the present. That work I had dedicated to Mr. DeRenne. I was on the eve of placing the manuscript in

the printer's hands when he proposed that I should present it to the Georgia Historical Society, and that he would defray the expense of the publication. The suggestion met with the gracious assent of the Society, and the volume was enlarged by the "*Itinerant Observations in America*," reprinted from the pages of the London Magazine.

Of the public spirit which characterized Mr. DeRenne as a citizen of Savannah,—the public spirit of a high-toned, independent gentleman solicitous for the general welfare, yet courting neither personal advantage nor political preferment,—of the sterling qualities which he exhibited in the business affairs of life and in the administration of his ample fortune,—of the active and intelligent interest he manifested in everything promotive of the material and intellectual progress, the ornamentation and the civilization of this City,—of his many charities, unheralded at the times of their dispensation, I may not speak. They are fresh in the recollection of us all. Were he here, he would tolerate no eulogium, and now that he is dead, as his friend I will do no violence to his known wishes.

I cannot refrain however, from reminding you of two princely gifts which will identify his memory with Savannah so long as human structures endure. I refer to his munificent donation of a commodious and substantial building on West Broad Street to be used as a Public School for the education of the children of citizens of African descent, and to his presentation, to the Ladies' Memorial Association, of that admirable Bronze Statue of a Confederate Soldier which surmounts the Monument erected by fair hands in the Military Parade of Savannah in honor of our Confederate Dead.

Listen to the offer and the acceptance of that noble gift:

"A meeting of the Ladies' Memorial Association was held June 3rd, 1879, at 6 o'clock, at the Lecture Room of the Independent Presbyterian Church, when, after the transaction of the usual routine business, the following communication from Mr. G. W. J. DeRenne was submitted by the President and ordered to be read:

SAVANNAH, May 21, 1879.

The President of the Ladies' Memorial Association, Savannah:

MADAM—In pursuance of the proposition made and accepted in April of last year, I now present to the Ladies' Memorial Association a bronze statue of a Confederate Soldier.

It represents him as he was,—marked with the marks of service in features, form, and raiment;—a man who chose rather to be than to seem, to bear hardship than to complain of it;—a man who met with unflinching firmness the fate decreed him, to suffer, to fight, and to die in vain.

I offer the Statue as a tribute to the "MEN" of the Confederate Army. Without name or fame, or hope of gain they did the duty appointed them to do. Now,—their last fight fought, their suffering over,—they lie in scattered graves throughout our wide Southern land, at rest at last, returned to the bosom of the loved Mother they valiantly strove to defend.

According to your faith, believe that they may receive their reward in the World to come:—they had none on earth.

With the expression of my profound respect for those women of the South who, true to the dead, have sought to save their memory from perishing, I am, Madam,

Very respectfully, etc.,

G. W. J. DERENNE.

The following resolutions were then offered and unanimously adopted by a rising vote:

Whereas our fellow-citizen, G. W. J. DeRenne, has presented to this Association the bronze statue of a Confederate Soldier now crowning the Monument erected in the Military Parade of this City to the memory of the soldiers who perished for the Cause they held more precious than life;

Therefore, Resolved that we, the members of this Association, individually and as a body, do hereby unanimously express our grateful appreciation of this noble gift; recognizing its great merit not only as a work of art, but as a signal ornament to our beloved City, and as a valued contribution to the public sentiment worthy of the munificent and solemn purpose of the donor.

Resolved that we do hereby accept this tribute with profound gratitude, and, in the name of all who are true to these heroic dead, we reverently consecrate it to the memory of the Soldiers of the Confederate Army who "went down in silence."

Resolved that two copies of these proceedings be signed by each of the Officers of this Association;—one copy to be presented to G. W. J. DeRenne, Esq., the other to the Georgia Historical Society, with the request that it may be placed for preservation in the Archives of the Society.

HENRIETTA COHEN, *President.*
S. C. WILLIAMSON, *Treasurer.*
S. C. MANN, *Secretary.*"

Thus are the name, the generosity, and the patriotism of our departed friend indissolubly linked with the holiest

monument erected within the confines of this Monumental City:—a monument redolent of the prayers, the loves, and the tears of mother, wife, sister, daughter;—a monument crystalizing in towering and symmetrical form the memories of the Confederate struggle for independence;—a monument standing as a spotless, imperishable, just tribute to our Confederate Dead. To the Cause which it symbolizes and the heroes who perished in its support, time can bring no shadow, nor envious years oblivion.

The thirty-seventh Anniversary of our Society we mark with our whitest stone for on that occasion, amid appropriate ceremonies and eloquent utterances, was formal possession delivered, at the hands of General Alexander R. Lawton,—the donor's trustee,—of this Hall, the home of our institution. Our hearts overflow with gratitude to the noble Sisters whose charities have filled our City with gladness and placed this Institution upon a vantage ground the like of which exists not within the compass of these Southern States. Georgia has never known such charitable bequests as those which emanated from the clear heads and warm hearts of MISS TELFAIR and MRS. HODGSON. They stand alone and without parallel in the history of Georgia wills, and when the pending litigation shall have been concluded in favor of these bequests, as thus it must be in the name of all that is just and equitable, no limit can be assigned to the benign and far-reaching benefits which will ensue from their judicious and enduring administration. Behold what they have done for us. See this well appointed Library-Room with its twelve thousand volumes. What Southern Historical Society can claim like apartments or offer such a well-spring of intellectual life? Secure in its foundation, enjoying the advantages of this commo-

dious abiding place, enriched with such literary treasures, and with a firm hold upon the affections of this commercial metropolis and Queen City of Georgia, who shall allot bounds to the enlightening influences which shall radiate from this Society and from this Library? "Give a man a taste for reading," says Sir John Herschel, "and the means of gratifying it, and you can hardly fail of making him a happy man, unless, indeed, you put into his hands a most perverse selection of books. You place him in contact with the best society in every period in history, with the wisest, the wittiest, the tenderest, the bravest, and the purest characters who adorned humanity. You make him a denizen of all nations.—a contemporary of all ages. The world has been created for him."

See to it, Gentlemen of the Georgia Historical Society, and Citizens of Savannah, that you generously give and wisely expend in the support and augmentation of this Library. It is an active, potent instrument of the highest civilization.

Think too of the future which opens before this Society in the intelligent administration of that Charity which places under your charge the TELFAIR MANSION and furnishes you with competent means to there inaugurate and maintain an ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES.

It is the misfortune of this new country that we are, in large degree, ignorant of true art and almost totally wanting in everything which savors of antiquity. Our venerable monuments are but the works of yesterday, and our thoughts are largely obedient to the exactions of a utilitarian civilization. We lack repose, we lack open-air gardens, we lack music, we lack art-galleries, we lack public libraries, we lack gymnasia, we lack

free temples of learning, and these are, in the main, the inheritances of age. We have no British Museum into whose lap the treasures of centuries have been poured;—no Westminster Abbey where the proudest memories of a thousand years are perpetuated in choicest stone,—memories of king and knight and warrior, of statesman and jurist and philosopher, of metaphysician and poet and historian, of sculptor and painter and astronomer, of bishop, mathematician and inventor, of essayist, novelist, and humorist,—memories of all that is regal, valorous and enviable in England's history symbolized for the instruction and the emulation of the ages:—no National Gallery wherein are garnered up some of the loftiest achievements of the brush:—no South Kensington Museum where the eye is dazzled with art trophies gathered from the four corners of the Earth. All these and more our Mother England possesses, and we, her best born, should emulate her example. Already has personal acquaintance with the galleries of the Old World and the marbles of a classic civilization engendered in this land a taste for and an appreciation of Art in its highest expressions. The increasing wealth and education of the present American generation are already vying with the riches and the taste of foreign countries in securing objects of rare merit and historic value. Some of our private galleries are even now famous, and public institutions, at prominent points, are attracting to their ownership, in various departments of science and art, collections which will ere long become the envy of the civilized nations. A new era dawns upon us.

We know not how great or how inviting this TELFAIR ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES may become in the near

future, or what its treasures will be in the eons to come. It will prove a magnet in our midst around which will concentre all that is beautiful, instructive, and refining. Let us have a care that we admit nothing within its walls which will not bear the criticism of true art and merit the sanction of time,—nothing which does not possess genuine value and serve aptly to illustrate some department of knowledge. You may gather the yellow oxides upon a thousand hills. You must dig deep into the bowels of the rocks ere you find the pure gold.

Above all, let this Academy illustrate Georgia, her archæology, her mineralogy, her flora, her fauna, and exhibit everything which may tend in Art and Science to interpret her past, glorify her present, and minister to the grandeur of her future. In the development of this bequest we have a mission to execute of no little difficulty, and of surpassing importance.

Remember also that publications of interesting contributions to the history of our State are the life and honor of this Society. By them we thrive and gain reputation. Thus do we augment our library and maintain an enviable position among our sister institutions. Although we have done much in reproducing scarce tracts descriptive of the foundation and early life of the Colony, somewhat remains to be accomplished in this regard. A reprint, for example, of the publications to which the expedition of General Oglethorpe against St. Augustine gave rise, would form an acceptable volume. There are narratives too, connected with our Revolutionary period, which should be diligently sought, collated, and made public.

And then, what a wide field opens before us when we contemplate the surprizing fact that of the past

eighty years and more of her existence Georgia has no written history. Even the materials for the compilation of such a work are uncollected and wholly undigested. The conduct of our State affairs,—the development of our Judiciary system,—our religious, social and intellectual growth,—the sale of our Western Territory,—the part sustained in the war of 1812-15,—our Indian Affairs,—our complications with the General Government,—our participation in the Florida wars,—the rise of political parties and the heated contests which convulsed our Commonwealth,—our share in the honors won by the sword upon the fields of Mexico,—the glorious memories which Georgia bequeathed during the Confederate struggle for independence,—the dark days of reconstruction,—the adaptation of system and pursuits to the new order of things,—the expansion of our inhabited territory from a narrow domain clinging for protection to the Atlantic on the one hand, and the rivers Savannah and Alatamaha on the other, into its present august proportions,—the wonderful development of our agricultural, manufacturing, and industrial pursuits,—all these and more remain to be grouped, analyzed, and narrated. Then too, the lives and the acts of the good and the great who have made our State prosperous and happy at home and famous abroad,—statesmen, warriors, lawyers, physicians, divines, scholars, teachers, planters, mauufacturers,—where are they? The sad and extraordinary fact stares us in the face that of Georgia,—as a State,—now more than a century old and occupying the front rank in the Southern sisterhood, we, her children, have literally no written history. Would you seek it? Get you then to the moth-eaten files of almost forgotten newspapers,—those invaluable chroniclers of passing events;—address yourself to docu-

ments cribbed in the departments, four times subjected to removal upon the changes of the seat of government, and once despoiled by Federal soldiery,—documents from many of which "time hath eaten out the letters and the dust made a parenthesis betwixt every syllable;"—search for ephemeral tracts, gazetteers, and partial collections which, having responded to the requirement of the moment, have fallen into disuse and oblivion;—sit you down at the feet of the aged and the honored whose recollection, at farthest, extends scarce fifty years into the gathering gloom of the past;—glean thence the history of Georgia as a State, if you can, for you will find it treasured no where else.

In the language of one of Georgia's noblest sons,* "All sovereign peoples, who can review their past with honest pride, owe it to themselves, their ancestors, and their posterity to have made, from time to time, true and permanent historical records of their political existence. Most, if not all of the original thirteen States of our Union, and many of their younger sisters, have recognized the importance of so doing, and have adopted measures to that end. Georgia, one of the original sisterhood, now ranking for enterprise and progress among the foremost, may be said to have no condensed written history. Even the fragmentary efforts in that way are very far from reaching our own times, and, for general edification, are out of print.

It is time, high time that our beloved State had awakened to this imperative duty. Time, the relentless destroyer of man's works and the records of them, is fast obliterating the materials of which such a work must needs be constructed. It has been too long delayed.

* Ex-Governor Charles J. Jenkins.